

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1-25.(Canceled):

26.-27.(Canceled)

28.(Canceled):

29-48.(Canceled)

49-54.(Canceled):

55-64.(Canceled)

65-71(Canceled):

72.(Canceled)

73-76.(Canceled):

77-91.(Canceled)

92.(Canceled):

93.(Currently amended): A therapeutic element comprising:

a polymeric material;

a plurality of radioactive seed elements; wherein

said polymeric material forms an elongated member by encapsulating and

connecting said plurality of adjacent radioactive seed elements end-to-end at desired intervals. ;
and

~~said elongated member having a diameter substantially similar to that of the radioactive seed elements.~~

said elongated member being axially rigid and radially flexible.

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94. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the polymeric material is a polymer.

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3
95. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the polymeric material is a co-polymer.

4
96. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the polymeric material is a natural bio-compatible material.

5
97. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the polymeric material is a synthetic bio-compatible material.

6
98. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the polymeric material is a natural bio-absorbable material.

7
99. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the polymeric material is a synthetic bio-absorbable material.

8
100. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the elongated member has alternating segments of polymeric material and seed elements.

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101. (Canceled)

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102. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the elongated

member has a substantially constant diameter.

103. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein the elongated member has a diameter substantially similar to the diameter of the radioactive seed elements.

104. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said elongate member is sufficiently rigid axially to prevent jamming or collapsing while being pushed out of a needle.

105. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said elongate solid member has sufficient radial flexibility to maintain locational accuracy relative to a tumor target as said tumor target shrinks in size.

106. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein the thickness of said elongate solid member around said radioactive seeds is sufficient to decrease normal tissue necrosis from a high local dose of radiation.

107. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said elongate solid member is longitudinally flexible.

108. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said polymeric material is impregnated with a hormone.

109. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said polymeric material is impregnated with a drug.

110. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said radioactive seed elements are positioned at various intervals along the length of said elongate solid member.

111. (Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said

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radioactive seed elements are impregnated with a hormone.

119
N2.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said radioactive seed elements are impregnated with a drug.

20, 20
113.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said radioactive seeds contain a compound or element that emits photonic radiation having a low energy and a short half-life.

21, 21
N4.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said radioactive seeds contain an isotope consisting of the group iodine 125, palladium 103, iridium 192, cesium 131, gold 198 yttrium 90 and phosphorus 32.

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N5.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said polymeric material is absorbed by living tissue within about 70 to 120 days after implant.

23
N6.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said polymeric material is absorbed by living tissue at substantially the same time as the half-life of the radioactive seed elements are reached.

24
N7.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers of glycolide, lactide and polydiacoxane.

25
N8.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said elongate solid member is echogenic.

26
N9.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 93 wherein said elongate solid member has air bubbles dispensed within.

27
N10.(Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim 93 wherein said elongate

member has a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 40.

~~122~~ (Previously presented): The therapeutic element of claim ~~93~~ wherein said elongate member has a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 80.

~~123-124~~ (Canceled)

~~125~~ (New): A therapeutic element comprising:

an elongate member made of a bio-absorbable polymeric material;
radioactive seed elements; wherein
said radioactive seed elements are secured along the elongate member by molding
said seed elements directly into the bio-absorbable polymeric material; and
said elongate member is axially rigid and radially flexible.

~~126~~ (New): The therapeutic element of claim ~~125~~, wherein
said radioactive seed elements are secured at desired intervals along the elongate member.

~~127~~ (New): The therapeutic element of claim of claim ~~125~~, wherein
each of said desired intervals is independently set.

~~128~~ (New): The therapeutic implant of claim ~~127~~, wherein said desired intervals are set
by a pre-operative diagnosis plan of a patient.

~~129~~ (New): The therapeutic implant of claim ~~125~~, wherein the radioactive seed elements
are secured along the elongate member without the use of pre-fabricated spacers.

~~130~~ (New): The therapeutic implant of claim ~~125~~, wherein said therapeutic implant is
fashioned by compression molding techniques.

136/131 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the polymeric material is a polymer.

137/132 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the polymeric material is a co-polymer.

138/133 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the polymeric material is a natural bio-compatible material.

139/134 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the polymeric material is a synthetic bio-compatible material.

140/135 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the polymeric material is a natural bio-absorbable material.

141/136 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the polymeric material is a synthetic bio-absorbable material.

142/137 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the elongated member has alternating segments of polymeric material and seed elements.

143/138 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the elongated member has a substantially constant diameter.

144/139 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein the elongated member has a diameter substantially similar to the diameter of the radioactive seed elements.

145/140 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said elongate member is sufficiently rigid axially to prevent jamming or collapsing while being pushed out of a needle.

141/145 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said elongate member has sufficient radial flexibility to maintain locational accuracy relative to a tumor target as said tumor target shrinks in size.

142/146 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein the thickness of said elongate member around said radioactive seeds is sufficient to decrease normal tissue necrosis from a high local dose of radiation.

143/147 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said polymeric material is impregnated with a hormone.

144/148 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said polymeric material is impregnated with a drug.

145/149 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said radioactive seed elements are positioned at various intervals along the length of said elongate member.

146/150 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said radioactive seed elements are impregnated with a hormone.

147/151 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said radioactive seed elements are impregnated with a drug.

148/152 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said radioactive seeds contain a compound or element that emits photonic radiation having a low energy and a short half-life.

149/153 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said radioactive seeds contain an isotope consisting of the group iodine 125, palladium 103, iridium 192, cesium 131, gold 198 yttrium 90 and phosphorus 32.

149/150 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said polymeric material is absorbed by living tissue within about 70 to 120 days after implant.

150/151 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said polymeric material is absorbed by living tissue at substantially the same time as the half-life of the radioactive seed elements are reached.

151/152 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polymers and copolymers of glycolide, lactide and polydioxanone.

152/153 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said elongate member is echogenic.

153/154 (New): The therapeutic element set forth in claim 125 wherein said elongate member has air bubbles dispensed within.

154/155 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein said elongate member has a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 40.

155/156 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein said elongate member has a durometer in the range of about 20 to about 80.

156/157 (New): The therapeutic element of claim 125 wherein said polymeric material is moldable during manufacture of the therapeutic element.